

App. No. 09/930,659
Amendment Dated August 23, 2005
Reply to Final Office Action of July 25, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-37 remain in this application for further consideration. Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejections set forth in the current Office Action. Applicants assert that the prior art is not being read in its entirety. Elements of the prior art are being taken out of context of the teaching as a whole. Succinctly stated, the prior art is being taken out of context by at least the following:

1. Hertzog teaches a server that maintains several embodiments of personal information. A user may then determine clients that receive access to the particular embodiment of personal information. The user posts the personal information to the client (i.e. family client, business client etc.) The term subset used in Hertzog is referring to subsets of personal information that are used to create postings to the different clients. The subsets are subsets of information maintained on the server. The subsets of Hertzog do not read on the version portions that indicate which version of the data structure is being used to synchronize the object.

2. Hertzog teaches the posting of personal information. Hertzog does not teach a synchronization message as recited in the claims. Specifically Hertzog does not teach a synchronization message that includes grouping synchronization activities in a single message. Again the subsets taught in Hertzog pertain to sub-sets of personal information and do not relate to grouping in a synchronization message or a version portion.

3. Hertzog teaches a graphical user interface that may provide textual descriptions of operations being performed by the synchronization engine. Hertzog does not teach a synchronization message for grouping synchronization activities in a single message that includes a portion for indicating that the synchronization action was not successful.

For the reasons more fully set forth below, applicants assert that the claims are clearly allowable over Hertzog and that Hertzog is not being read as a whole. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claims in light of the arguments set forth herein.

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I. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1-13 and 15-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Publication Number 2003/0069874 published to Hertzog et al. (hereinafter "Hertzog"). Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejection. When the claims are read in their entirety, each claim contains elements not taught or otherwise suggested by Hertzog. Specifically, claim 1 includes the following elements not taught or otherwise suggested by Hertzog:

"a synchronization message including a plurality of message portions for *grouping synchronization activities in a single message*" (emphasis added).

"a *version portion* that *indicates* which version of the data structure is being used to synchronize the object" (emphasis added).

"a *command portion* that *indicates* a synchronization action to take to synchronize the object between the server and the client" (emphasis added).

"*if an error occurs* while the synchronization action is performed, *a response portion* that *indicates* that the synchronization action was not successful" (emphasis added).

Hertzog fails to teach a synchronization message that includes a plurality of message portions for grouping synchronization activities in a single message. As recited in the Office Action, Hertzog specifically recites as follows:

"A resonate dispatch 38 may be hosted on a pair of Sun Ultra-SPARC machines, from Sun Microsystems of Mountain View, Calif. The resonate dispatch 38 performs load balancing operations between multiple machines on which an application server 40 and a web server 42 are hosted. In an exemplary embodiment, both the application server 40 and the web server 42 may be hosted on a single Sun 450 machine from Sun Microsystems. The application server 40 may be developed utilizing Java technology developed by Sun Microsystems, and serve both the client service module 26 of the client application 18 on the client machine 12, and the web server 42. *The application server 40 includes logic that allows a user, accessing the application server 40 via a client machine 12, to access only information for which the user has been granted permission. The application server 40 is furthermore responsible for sending personal information updates to the client services module 26 so as to synchronize the local*

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database 30 with a specific subset of information maintained within the server database 34." Hertzog, at col. 3, para. 0048.

Here, Hertzog is teaching that the local database is synchronized with the specific subset of information maintained within the server database. Hertzog is teaching that the server has subsets of information. Hertzog does not teach a synchronization message including a plurality of message portions for grouping synchronization activities in a single message. Moreover, the term subset used in Hertzog is referring to the subsets of personal information that is used to create a posting to the different clients. The subsets are subsets of information maintained on the server. Succinctly stated, Hertzog does not teach a synchronization message with the combination of elements set forth in the claim. Hertzog specifically teaches as follows:

"The present invention proposes allowing an owning user to store a master set of fields of personal information concerning the owning user, *and then to designate different combinations and permutations of the fields of personal information as sub-sets of personal information.* The present invention proposes allowing the owning user *to publish a selected one or more of these sub-sets of personal information to a receiving user. The receiving user may then view the published sub-set as personal information,* concerning the owning user, within a personal information repository (e.g., a PIM) of the receiving user. In one embodiment, the receiving user may populate, for example, an address book utilizing a sub-set of personal information published to the receiving user by the owning user. Each of the published sub-sets of personal information concerning the owning user may be viewed as a calling card of the owning user, which may in turn be classified as a personal card, a business card or other cards for distribution and publication to multiple receiving users.

FIG. 4 is a high level, diagrammatic representation of the above described concept. Specifically, *a master set 72 of personal information*, comprising a number of fields 74, is defined, inputted and stored by an owning user. The input and storage of the master set 72 may, for example, be performed by a user via the client application 18, wherein the information is inputted via the GUI 24 and stored by the client services module 26 within the local database 30. The various fields 74 of personal information may include name, address, telephone, fax, e-mail, date, job title, work organization, medical, financial, family, interest, membership or any other personal information concerning the owning user.

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The owning user may *then record the designation of sub-sets of the information fields 74 as constituting respective virtual cards 78. By designating different sub-sets of fields 74 of the master set 72 as different cards, or collections of fields, the owning user can define a collection 76 of virtual cards 78.* For example, the owning user may define a first personal card that includes only a sub-set of information fields 74 that the owning user is willing to communicate to family members. The personal virtual card 78 may thus be designated as a "family" card. The owning user may then designate a second sub-set of information fields 74 as a "friends" virtual card 78, the relevant sub-set of information fields 74 comprising information that the owning user wishes to publish to friends. The owning user may then define a "business" virtual card 78 that encompasses a sub-set of information fields 74 that are appropriate for communication to a business client, colleague or associate.

Having then defined the collection 76 of virtual cards 78, *the owning user may record the selection of one or more cards for publication to a selected receiving user (or subscriber). For example, the owning user may select the "family" virtual card 78 for publication to one or more family members, whereas the "business" virtual card 78 may be selected for publication to a number of business customers of the owning user.*" Hertzog, at col. 6, para. 0070, 0071.

Moreover, Hertzog does not teach a synchronization message for grouping synchronization activities in a single message that includes a portion for indicating that the synchronization action was not successful. Hertzog specifically teaches as follows:

"During a synchronization operation, the GUI 24 interacts with the client services module 26 and the synchronization engine 28 to provide a textual and graphic display of the progress of a synchronization operation. For example, the GUI 24 may provide textual descriptions of operations being performed by the synchronization engine 28, and may also provide a progress bar showing the percentage of the synchronization operation that is complete, or that remains to be completed." Hertzog, at col. 4, para. 0053.

Here, Hertzog is teaching that the GUI may provide textual descriptions (and/or a progress bar) of operations being performed by the synchronization engine. This teaching simply does not read on a synchronization message for grouping synchronization activities in a single message that includes a portion for indicating that the synchronization action was not successful.

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As stated hereinabove, applicants believe that Hertzog has been read out of context and that neither Hertzog nor the present invention are being read as a whole. Accordingly, applicants assert that claim 1 is allowable over the cited reference.

With regard to independent claims 21, 29, and 34, claim 21 includes the following elements not taught or otherwise suggested by Hertzog:

"a server configured to receive a data structure, the data structure *including a plurality of portions for grouping synchronization activities in a single data structure that is received by the server*" (emphasis added).

"a *version portion indicating* which version of the data structure is being used to synchronize the object" (emphasis added).

"a *command portion that indicates* a synchronization action to take to synchronize the object" (emphasis added).

Claim 29 includes the following elements not taught or otherwise suggested by Hertzog:

"formatting a synchronization message *having a plurality of message portions for grouping synchronization activities in a single message*" (emphasis added).

"a *version ID portion*" (emphasis added).

"a *commands portion*, the commands portion including information that *defines changes* to be made to a server to cause data on the server system to be synchronized with data on the data store" (emphasis added).

Claim 34 has been amended to include the following elements not taught or otherwise suggested by Hertzog:

"receiving an update synchronization message *having a plurality of message portions for grouping synchronization activities in a single message*" (emphasis added).

"another *version ID portion*" (emphasis added).

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"another *commands portion*, including information that *defines* changes to be made on the server to cause the data store to be synchronized with data on a mobile device" (emphasis added).

"sending a response synchronization message *having a plurality of message portions for grouping synchronization activities in a single message*" (emphasis added).

"a *version ID portion*" (emphasis added).

"a *commands portion*, including information that *defines changes* to be made on the mobile device to cause the data store to be synchronized with data on the mobile device" (emphasis added).

Independent claims 21, 29, and 34 include similar elements as recited above in support for claim 1 and therefore applicants believe the same to be allowable for at least those same reasons. The elements of claims 2-13, 15-20, 22-28, 30-33 and 35-37 are not taught or otherwise suggested by the cited reference. Moreover, claims 2-13, 15-20, 22-28, 30-33 and 35-37 ultimately depend from claims 1, 21, 29, and 34, respectively. Claims 1, 21, 29, and 34 are allowable for the previously stated reasons. Accordingly, applicants assert that claims 2-13, 15-20, 22-28, 30-33 and 35-37 are allowable for at least those same reasons.

III. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hertzog in view of Japanese Document No. JP2000020370A issued to Sharp KK (hereinafter "Sharp").

Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejection. There is no suggestion in either of the references that they may be combined in the manner propounded. Furthermore, even if for argument purposes such a suggestion could exist, claim 14 includes elements not taught by the references. Also, the rejection of claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) depends from the

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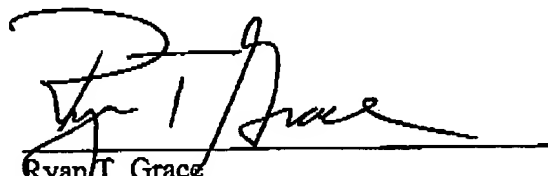
aforementioned rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). Insofar as the claims are allowable under 35 U.S.C. 102(e), the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) should be withdrawn.

IV. Request for Reconsideration

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all pending claims are believed to be allowable and the application is in condition for allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any further issues regarding this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney for the applicants at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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